Jan. 7-8, 2000

Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association

Executive Notes

Your Provincial Executive Council met on January 7 and 8 in St. John's. This edition of Executive Notes is designed to provide you with a summary of major decisions and discussions that occurred at this meeting. For further information on any of these issues, please contact any member of Provincial Executive or the NLTA staff person as indicated.

Association Priorities

A detailed, updated document was circulated to Provincial Executive outlining the action plans for each priority, who is responsible, the target date for implementation, and an action update. The priorities for the Association for 1999-2000 are collective bargaining preparations, membership involvement, curriculum issues, and classroom issues. For a detailed report on each priority, please contact your Provincial Executive member. For further information contact Fred Andrews, President, or Wayne Noseworthy, Executive Director.

Collective Bargaining

The Collective Bargaining Committee has met twice and has been collecting information from teachers on the main issues/concerns they want addressed in the next round of bargaining. A series of letters and memos has gone out to all groups asking for input. To ensure that all teachers have the opportunity to provide input, the week of January 14 was set aside as Collective Bargaining Submission Week. The submissions will assist the Collective Bargaining Committee in putting together a set of opening proposals in the coming months.

For further information contact Fred Douglas, Chair, Collective Bargaining Committee, or Perry Downey, Administrative Officer, Benefits and Economic Services Division.

Province-Wide Voting

The information package re: province-wide voting was revised as per the suggestions/direction of Executive and Joint Council. The revised package will be presented at the next Joint Council meeting in February, with a proposal that the poll be conducted on April 4, 2000, with results to be returned to the provincial office of NLTA by noon on Friday, April 7. For further information contact Winston Carter, Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on Province-wide Voting, or Wayne Noseworthy, Executive Director.

Education Now

The Executive Director of Oxfam, Bill Hynd, was invited to the meeting for a timed session to brief Provincial Executive on the "Education Now" Campaign. He explained one of the greatest challenges facing the world today is the vast number of children who don't receive even the most basic education. The purpose of the campaign is to get children into school around the world. NLTA endorses the "Education Now:

Break the Cycle of Poverty" campaign as initiated jointly by Oxfam and Education International. For further information contact Fred Andrews, President, or Lesley-Ann Browne, Communications Officer.

Pathways
On December 1, the Curriculum Committee met with Program Specialists from seven of the school districts and with representatives from the Division of Student Support Services. The meeting provided an opportunity for committee members to further articulate and clarify the NLTA's position regarding implementation of Pathways and presented an opportunity for dialogue among the groups.

Executive members were also provided with the results of the 638 questionnaires returned from teachers across the province. The major areas of concern with Pathways include: time requirements; lack of necessary professional development; trying to meet the diverse needs in the regular classroom; lack of support (programs and personnel) for Pathways 2 (remedial) children; lack of adequate personnel -- Special Education, Guidance, Educational Psychologist positions; legal liability in categorizing students and meeting their needs; missed opportunities for early intervention if children are not assessed until age 8; the time required to have children approved for categorical services, with time-consuming documentation sometimes being rejected by the Department of Education. The Association is continuing to pursue these issues at the provincial level. For further information contact Ken Kavanagh, Chair, Curriculum Committee, or René Wicks, Administrative Officer, Professional Development Division.

Business from Standing Committees

- Occasionally there are requests from teachers to access Professional Development funding for inservicing for new programs. This is clearly the responsibility of the employer. A letter will be distributed to school districts to remind boards that NLTA funding covers personal professional growth and that inservice funding should be the responsibility of the Department of Education and School Districts. For further information contact Elizabeth Murphy, Chair, Professional Issues in Teaching Committee, or Beverley Park/René Wicks, Administrative Officers, Professional Development Division.
- The proposed changes to the NLTA policy on travel expenses were accepted. For further information contact Fred Douglas, Chair, Finance and Property Committee, or Wayne Noseworthy, Executive Director.

Other Business

By-laws for the new Belle Mer Branch were accepted by Provincial Executive Council. The new Branch was formed last year through an amalgamation of the previous Bell Mer and Mount St. Margaret Branches. For further information contact Geralyn Costello, Assistant to the President.

The Association will contact the Federal Minister of Transportation expressing concern over the issue of regional airlines downloading the cost of air travel through travel agencies to consumers. For further information contact Wayne Noseworthy, Executive Director.

The Joint Council Meeting, originally scheduled for November 17-18, 2000, will be held on October 13-14, 2000, with a full day and evening session on Friday, October 13, and Saturday, October 14. This will allow Joint Council to deal with the final report from the Collective Bargaining Committee. For further information contact Fred Andrews, President, or Wayne Noseworthy, Executive Director.

Provincial Executive was updated on the issue of a lack of substitute teachers to replace distance education teachers who are on leave. The Administrative Staff in the Benefits and Economic Services Division are pursuing this matter. For further information contact Perry Downey, Benefits and Economic Services Division.

A letter of support from NLTA has been written to the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association (NWTTA) who are presently engaged in a rotating strike against the Territorial Government. For further information contact Fred Andrews, President, or Wayne Noseworthy, Executive Director.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of Provincial Executive is scheduled for February **17** and **18**, and will be followed by a Joint Council meeting on the evening of February **18** and all day February **19** in St. John's. For further information contact Geralyn Costello, Assistant to the President.